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| APPLICATION NO.   | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/691,611  | 10/24/2003  | Junichi Tanizaki     | P24487              | 7206             |
| 7055  | 7590        | 06/28/2005           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.<br>1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE<br>RESTON, VA 20191 |             |                      | BEATTY, ROBERT B    |                  |
|   |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
|   |             |                      | 2852                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/691,611

Applicant(s)

TANIZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Robert Beatty

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2003.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

2. The drawings are objected to because Fig.8 should be labeled as Prior Art. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

on pages 9-10, the reference numerals do not correspond to the figures;

on page 16-20, the applicant refers to an "assembled developing unit" which is composed of plural photoreceptors which is unclear and the examiner recommends the applicant change this to "assembled photoreceptor unit" where appropriate.

Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tokutake et al.

Tokutake et al. teach an image forming apparatus having an intermediate transfer unit 7, a plurality of photoreceptor units 11Y, 11M, 11C, 11K, and a plurality of developing units 4Y, 4M, 4C, and 4K all detachable from the image forming apparatus. A door (jamming removal opening) 101 is opened and an integrated cartridge 8 supporting the intermediate transfer unit, plurality of photoreceptors, and plurality of developing units is slid out of the opening. Sheet

supply trays 117a, 117b, and 117c are located at the bottom of the image forming apparatus, a sheet discharge tray 26 is located at an upper part of the apparatus, and a sheet transport path is formed from the sheet supply trays to the sheet discharge trays wherein by opening the door an operator can view (is confronted with) the transport path. The integrated cartridge 8 integrally couples the intermediate transfer belt, photosensitive units, and developing units together in one unit. The integrated cartridge acts as the intermediate transfer belt cartridge, the photoreceptor unit cartridge, and the developing device cartridge. The photoreceptor units are themselves subcartridges (containing at least the photoreceptor drum, cleaning device and charging device).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tokutake et al. in view of Iwamura (JP# 2002-182539).

Tokutake et al. taught supra discloses most of what is claimed except intermediate transfer belt is obliquely positioned with the photoreceptors, developers along the upper surface and the sheet transport mechanism along the

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bottom surface. Iwamura discloses an image forming apparatus having an obliquely positioned intermediate transfer belt 2, and the developers/photoreceptors are disposed on the upper surface while the sheet transport mechanism is along the bottom surface. The intermediate transfer belt and photoreceptor/developers are detachable from the image forming apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to position the imaging components as done in Iwamura because the device can be made small sized is easier to maintain as taught in Iwamura.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

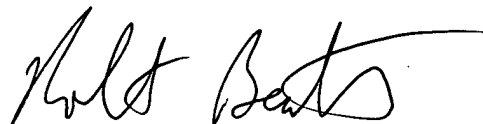
Haneda et al., Sameshima et al., Yokoi et al., Huffman et al., Okimura et al., and Matsuo (JP) all teach various detachable process units in an image forming apparatus.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert Beatty whose telephone number is (571) 272-2130. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley, can be reached on (571) 272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned

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is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Beatty", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Beatty  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2852

June 26, 2005